

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 09322 022043Z

66-61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 DOTE-00 FAA-00 SY-10

USSS-00 NEA-10 DRC-01 /163 W
----- 018201

R 021947Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS CARACAS 9322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, VE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: UNSUCCESSFUL HIJACKING ATTEMPT

1. AN 18 YEAR OLD CUBAN, RESIDENT OF VENEZUELA FOR THREE YEARS, ATTEMPTED TO FORCE AN AVENSA DC-9 WITH 83 PASSENGERS TO CHANGE COURSE FOR CUBA SHORTLY BEFORE ITS ARRIVAL AT MAIQUETIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON OCTOBER 31, 1973, AT 16:28. THE CUBAN, JOSE GABRIEL LORENZO, THREATENED A STEWARDESS WITH A REVOLVER. THE PILOT TOLD HIJACKER THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO LAND AND HAD LITTLE FUEL, WHEREUPON LORENZO SHOT HIMSELF. LORENZO IS IN A HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION AND NOT EXPECTED TO LIVE.

2. LORENZO, WHO HAS A PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE FOOT, APPARENTLY WANTED TO RETURN TO CUBA TO HIS PARENTS. CUBAN AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY PERMITTED HIS TRAVEL ABROAD TO LIVE WITH RELATIVES BECAUSE OF HIS PHYSICAL DEFECT. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY POLITICAL OVERTONES TO THE HIJACKING ATTEMPT.

3. INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE HOW LORENZO WAS ABLE TO BOARD THE AIRCRAFT AT BARQUISIMETO WITH HIS GUN. SECURITY MEASURES ON VENEZUELAN AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED
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SINCE THIS ATTEMPT.

MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: UNSUCCESSFUL HIJACKING ATTEMPT
TAGS: ETRN, VE, CU, AVENSA, (LORENZO, JOSE GABRIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005